

I-5, SR 16, SR 167, Tacoma/Pierce County HOV

The Tacoma/Pierce County Core High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Program is a series of highway projects that will provide operational improvements on I-5 and SR 16, and will complete the next portion of HOV lanes in the Puget Sound Region.

HOV lanes assure that transit buses, vanpools and carpools can move as rapidly as possible even when traffic is congested in the adjoining general-purpose lanes. This tends to increase ridership in multi-passenger vehicles and thereby help ease demand in the general-purpose lanes, making the highway system work more efficiently for everyone. This project will also add HOV lanes in both directions on SR 167 from Puyallup to Auburn.

The end result

The I-5 corridor will be widened for an additional lane in each direction from SR 512 to the King/Pierce County line to make room for future HOV lanes (see map). Auxiliary lanes which provide an area for entering or exiting vehicles to adjust speed; will also be added throughout most of the I-5 corridor. SR 16 will be widened for an additional lane in each direction from I-5 to Purdy.

What are the project timelines?

The Tacoma/Pierce County Core HOV Program consists of 22 projects. Two of these projects, 38th Street Interchange on Interstate 5, and the Sprague Ave. Interchange to Snake Lake on SR 16 are under construction and are scheduled for completion in October 2001 and April 2002 respectively. The next 11 projects are funded for design within the next six years, but are unfunded for construction. The remaining nine projects are unfunded and unscheduled either for design or construction.

What is WSDOT doing to involve and inform the public?

Public involvement in this project has been an ongoing effort since commencement of the early study phases of the project in 1993. A steering committee, including federal, state, county, city and tribal representatives, as well as the Port of Tacoma and Pierce Transit, was formed to make

Existing



Proposed



Interactive Timeline Map



recommendations about the project and met through 1996.

Since 1997, project representatives have held open houses, a public design and access hearing, and made project presentations to 20 or more Tacoma-area neighborhood associations, community organizations, business groups and service organizations. Several newsletters were also published.

Public participation opportunities will continue to be presented through the design process, including public meetings.

Program Update:

September 2001

With a focus on providing High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on SR 16 from I-5 to Gig Harbor, projects 2 and 3 of the Pierce County Core HOV Lane projects are currently under construction. Project #1 is tied to construction of the second Narrows Bridge. WSDOT staff is preparing contact documents, purchasing right-of-way and obtaining permits on the next eight projects in the Pierce County Core HOV Program-including the replacement of the Nalley Valley viaduct.

Expenditure Plan

	Prior Expenditures	Remaining Costs	Total
State Funds*	\$47,678,000	\$56,822,000	
Unfunded amount		\$1,281,560,000	
Total Cost	\$47,678,000	\$1,338,382,000	\$1,386,060,000

Financial data is current as of 9/1/01.

* Some Federal Funding for Design.

Financial Information

The Tacoma/Pierce County HOV Program includes construction funding in the 2001-03 biennium for I-5, 38th Street and SR 16, Sprague to Snake Lake projects. Projects numbered 4 through 13 are funded over the next three biennia for design and right-of-way acquisition. Additional funding is required to fund construction of projects 4 through 13, and additional funding is also required for all phases of projects 14 through 22.

Government-to-Government Tribal Consultative Process

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians has been a significant stakeholder in the development of the Tacoma/Pierce County Core HOV Program. Beginning in 1998, the Puyallup Tribe has been involved in defining projects in Tacoma and Fife, providing direct input to project staff during two presentations in 1999. When the next design phase begins in 2002--widening I-5 from the Tacoma Dome to Fife--the tribe will be invited

to participate in a project oversight committee who's focus will be to review staff work and provide input on design alternatives.

Project Facts:

- Creates 48 miles of HOV lanes in Pierce County including:
 - 13 miles on I-5
 - 18 miles on SR 16
 - 17 miles on SR 167
- Eliminates traffic "weaving" areas at several interchange locations, where vehicles entering the freeway must merge with vehicles exiting.
- Upgrades roadways throughout the corridor to meet today's safety standards.
- Replaces or resurfaces worn out concrete pavement.
- Replaces 19 interchanges and constructs nearly 50 new bridges.

What is being done to protect the environment?

WSDOT has an approved environmental document for the entire I-5 and SR 16 HOV corridor. All of the improvements will be done within the existing right of way. As each project goes through design, WSDOT evaluates potential project impacts to threatened and endangered species, wetlands, storm water runoff, air quality, and others. We are working with other state resource agencies to ensure the environmental benefits of our project are being best met.

How can I get more information?

For detailed information about this project contact:

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